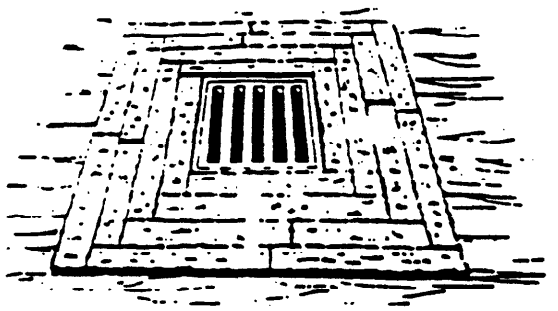
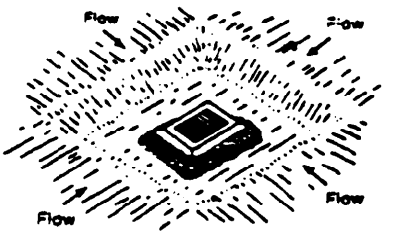
Storm Drain Inlet Protection

What Is It

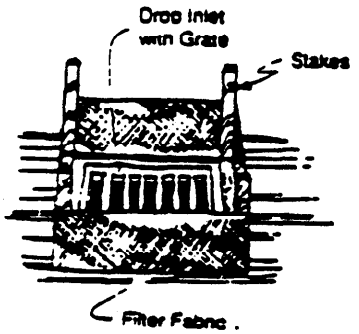
Storm drain inlet protection is a filtering measure placed around any inlet or drain to trap sediment. This mechanism prevents the sediment from entering inlet structures. Additionally, it serves to prevent the silting-in of inlets, storm drainage systems, or receiving channels. Inlet protection may be composed of gravel and stone with a wire mesh filter, block and gravel, filter fabric, or sod.



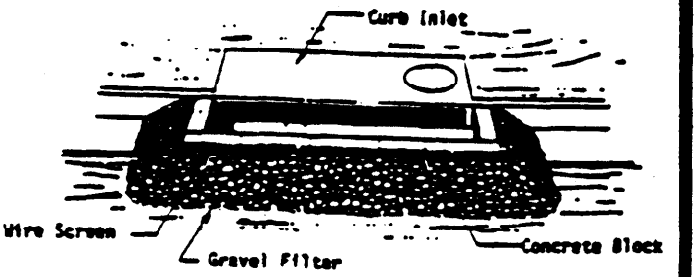
Sod Inlet Protection



Excavated Gravel Inlet Protection



Filter Fabric Inlet Protection



Block and Gravel End Wall Silt Trap

FIGURE A-18 EXAMPLES OF STORM DRAIN INLET PROTECTION
(Modified from State of North Carolina, 1988; Washington State, 1992; and County of Fairfax, 1987)

When and Where to Use It

This type of protection is appropriate for small drainage areas where storm drain inlets will be ready for use before final stabilization. Storm drain inlet protection is also used where a permanent storm drain structure is being constructed onsite. Straw bales are not recommended for this purpose. Filter fabric is used for inlet protection when storm water flows are relatively small with low velocities. This practice cannot be used where inlets are paved because the filter fabric should be staked. Block and gravel filters can be used where velocities are higher. Gravel and mesh filters

Source: EPA (1992)

can be used where flows are higher and subject to disturbance by site traffic. Sod inlet filters are generally used where sediments in the storm water runoff are low.

What to Consider

Storm drain inlet protection is not meant for use in drainage areas exceeding 1 acre or for large concentrated storm water flows. Installation of this measure should take place before any soil disturbance in the drainage area. The type of material used will depend on site conditions and the size of the drainage area. Inlet protection should be used in combination with other measures, such as small impoundments or sediment traps, to provide more effective sediment removal. Inlet protection structures should be inspected regularly, especially after a rainstorm. Repairs and silt removal should be performed as necessary. Storm drain inlet protection structures should be removed only after the disturbed areas are completely stabilized.

Advantages of Storm Drain Inlet Protection
• Prevents clogging of existing storm drainage systems and the siltation of receiving waters
• Reduces the amount of sediment leaving the site
Disadvantages of Storm Drain Inlet Protection
• May be difficult to remove collected sediment
• May cause erosion elsewhere if clogging occurs
• Is practical only for low sediment, low volume flows (disturbed areas less than one acre)

Source: EPA (1992)

FILTER FABRIC INLET PROTECTION

September 1992

Design Criteria

- Inlet protection is appropriate in the following locations:
  - In small drainage areas (less than 1 acre) where the storm drain inlet is functional before the drainage area has been permanently stabilized.
  - Where there is danger of sediment silting in an inlet which is in place prior to permanent stabilization.
- Filter fabric inlet protection is appropriate for most types of inlets where the drainage area is one acre or less.
- The drainage area should be fairly flat with slopes of 5% or less and the area immediately surrounding the inlet should not exceed a slope of 1%.
- Overland flow to the inlet should be no greater than 0.5 cfs.
- This type of inlet protection is not appropriate for use in paved areas because the filter fabric requires staking.
- To avoid failure caused by pressure against the fabric when overtopping occurs, it is recommended that the height of the filter fabric be limited to 1.5 feet above the crest of the drop inlet.
- It is recommended that a sediment trapping sump of 1 to 2 feet in depth with side slopes of 2:1 be provided.

Materials

- Filter fabric (see the fabric specifications for silt fence).
- Wooden stakes 2" x 2" or 2"x 4" with a minimum length of 3 feet.
- Heavy-duty wire staples at least ½ inch in length.
- Washed gravel ¾ inches in diameter.

Construction Specifications

- Place a stake at each corner of the inlet and around the edges at no more than 3 feet apart. Stakes should be driven into the ground 18 inches or at a minimum 8 inches.
- For stability a framework of wood strips should be installed around the stakes at the crest of the overflow area 1.5 feet above the crest of the drop inlet.
- Excavate a trench of 8 inches to 12 inches in depth around the outside perimeter of the stakes. If a sediment trapping sump is being provided then the excavation may be as deep as 2 feet.
- Staple the filter fabric to the wooden stakes with heavy-duty staples, overlapping the joints to the next stake. Ensure that between 12 inches to 32 inches of filter fabric extends at the bottom so it can be formed into the trench.
- Place the bottom of the fabric in the trench and backfill the trench all the way around using washed gravel to a minimum depth of 4 inches.

Maintenance

- Inspect regularly and after every storm. Make any repairs necessary to ensure the measure is in good working order.
- Sediment should be removed and the trap restored to its original dimensions when sediment has accumulated to ½ the design depth of the trap.
- If the filter fabric becomes clogged it should be replaced immediately.
- Make sure that the stakes are firmly in the ground and that the filter fabric continues to be securely anchored.
- All sediments removed should be properly disposed.
- Inlet protection should remain in place and operational until the drainage area is completely stabilized or up to 30 days after the permanent site stabilization is achieved.

Cost

- The cost of storm drain inlet protection varies dependent upon the size and type of inlet to be protected but generally is about $300.00 per inlet.

Sources

- Commonwealth of Virginia - County of Fairfax, 1987. 1987 Check List For Erosion And Sediment Control - Fairfax County, Virginia.
- State of North Carolina, 1988. Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Manual. North Carolina Sedimentation Control Commission, Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.
- Maryland Department of the Environment, 1991. 1991 Maryland Standards And Specifications For Soil Erosion And Sediment Control - Draft.
- Storm Water Management Manual for the Puget Sound Basin. State of Washington, Department of Ecology, 1991.
- Cost Data:
  - Draft Sediment and Erosion Control, An Inventory of Current Practices, April 20, 1990. Prepared by Kamber Engineering for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water Enforcement and Permits, Washington, D.C. 20460.

EXCAVATED GRAVEL INLET PROTECTION

September 1992

Design Criteria

- Inlet protection is appropriate in the following locations:
  - In small drainage areas (less than 1 acre) where the storm drain inlet is functional before the drainage area has been permanently stabilized.
  - Where there is danger of sediment silting in an inlet which is in place prior to permanent stabilization.
  - Where ponding around the inlet structure could be a problem to traffic on site.
- Excavated gravel and mesh inlet protection may be used with most inlets where overflow capability is needed and in areas of heavy flows, 0.5 cfs or greater.
- The drainage area should not exceed 1 acre.
- The drainage area should be fairly flat with slopes of 5% or less.
- The trap should have a sediment trapping sump of 1 to 2 feet measured from the crest of the inlet. Side slopes should be 2:1. The recommended volume of excavation is 35 yd^3/acre disturbed.
- To achieve maximum trapping efficiency the longest dimension of the basin should be oriented toward the longest inflow area.

Materials

- Hardware cloth or wire mesh with ½ inch openings.
- Filter fabric (see the fabric specifications for silt fence).
- Washed gravel ¾ inches to 4 inches in diameter.

Construction Specifications

- Remove any obstructions to excavating and grading. Excavate sump area, grade slopes and properly dispose of soil.
- The inlet grate should be secured to prevent seepage of sediment laden water.
- Place wire mesh over the drop inlet so that the wire extends a minimum of 1 foot beyond each side of the inlet structure. Overlap the strips of mesh if more than one is necessary.
- Place filter fabric over the mesh extending it at least 18 inches beyond the inlet opening on all sides. Ensure that weep holes in the inlet structure are protected by filter fabric and gravel.
- Place stone/gravel over the fabric/wire mesh to a depth of at least 1 foot.

Maintenance

- Inspect regularly and after every storm. Make any repairs necessary to ensure the measure is in good working order.
- Sediment should be removed and the trap restored to its original dimensions when sediment has accumulated to ½ the design depth of the trap.
- Clean or remove and replace the stone filter or filter fabric if they become clogged.
- Inlet protection should remain in place and operational until the drainage area is completely stabilized or up to 30 days after the permanent site stabilization is achieved.

Cost

- The cost of storm drain inlet protection varies dependent upon the size and type of inlet to be protected but generally is about $300.00 per inlet.

Sources

- Commonwealth of Virginia - County of Fairfax, 1987. 1987 Check List For Erosion And Sediment Control - Fairfax County, Virginia.
- State of North Carolina, 1988. Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Manual. North Carolina Sedimentation Control Commission, Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.
- Maryland Department of the Environment, 1991. 1991 Maryland Standards And Specifications For Soil Erosion And Sediment Control - Draft.
- Storm Water Management Manual for the Puget Sound Basin. State of Washington, Department of Ecology, 1991.
- Cost Data:
  - Draft Sediment and Erosion Control, An Inventory of Current Practices, April 20, 1990. Prepared by Kamber Engineering for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water Enforcement and Permits, Washington, D.C. 20460.

BLOCK AND GRAVEL INLET PROTECTION

September 1992

Design Criteria

- Inlet protection is appropriate in the following locations:
  - In drainage areas (less than 1 acre) where the storm drain inlet is functional before the drainage area has been permanently stabilized.
  - Where there is danger of sediment silting in an inlet which is in place prior to permanent stabilization.
- Block and gravel inlet protection may be used with most types of inlets where overflow capability is needed and in areas of heavy flows 0.5 cfs or greater.
- The drainage area should not exceed 1 acre.
- The drainage area should be fairly flat with slopes of 5% or less.
- To achieve maximum trapping efficiency the longest dimension of the basin should be oriented toward the longest inflow area.
- Where possible the trap should have sediment trapping sump of 1 to 2 feet in depth with side slopes of 2:1.
- There are several other types of inlet protection also used to prevent siltation of storm drainage systems and structures during construction, they are:
  - Filter Fabric Inlet Protection
  - Excavated Gravel Inlet Protection

Materials

- Hardware cloth or wire mesh with ½ inch openings
- Filter fabric (see the fabric specifications for silt fence)
- Concrete block 4 inches to 12 inches wide.
- Washed gravel ¾ inches to 4 inches in diameter

Construction Specifications

- The inlet grate should be secured to prevent seepage of sediment laden water.
- Place wire mesh over the drop inlet so that the wire extends a minimum of 12 inches to 18 inches beyond each side of the inlet structure. Overlap the strips of mesh if more than one is necessary.
- Place filter fabric (optional) over the mesh and extend it at least 18 inches beyond the inlet structure.
- Place concrete blocks over the filter fabric in a single row lengthwise on their sides along the sides of the inlet. The foundation should be excavated a minimum of 2 inches below the crest of the inlet and the bottom row of blocks should be against the edge of the structure for lateral support.
- The open ends of the block should face outward not upward and the ends of adjacent blocks should abut. Lay one block on each side of the structure on its side to allow for dewatering of the pool.
- The block barrier should be at least 12 inches high and may be up to a maximum of 24 inches high and may be from 4 inches to 12 inches in depth depending on the size of block used.
- Prior to backfilling, place wire mesh over the outside vertical end of the blocks so that stone does not wash down the inlet.
- Place gravel against the wire mesh to the top of the blocks.

Maintenance

- Inspect regularly and after every storm. Make any repairs necessary to ensure the measure is in good working order.
- Sediment should be removed and the trap restored to its original dimensions when sediment has accumulated to ½ the design depth of the trap.
- All sediments removed should be properly disposed of.
- Inlet protection should remain in place and operational until the drainage area is completely stabilized or up to 30 days after the permanent site stabilization is achieved.

Cost

- The cost of storm drain inlet protection varies dependent upon the size and type of inlet to be protected but generally is about $300.00 per inlet.

Sources

- Commonwealth of Virginia - County of Fairfax, 1987. 1987 Check List For Erosion And Sediment Control - Fairfax County, Virginia.
- State of North Carolina, 1988. Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Manual. North Carolina Sedimentation Control Commission, Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.
- Maryland Department of the Environment, 1991. 1991 Maryland Standards And Specifications For Soil Erosion And Sediment Control - Draft.
- Storm Water Management Manual for the Puget Sound Basin. State of Washington, Department of Ecology, 1991.
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Sediment Trap

What Is It

A sediment trap is formed by excavating a pond or by placing an earthen embankment across a low area or drainage swale. An outlet or spillway is constructed using large stones or aggregate to slow the release of runoff. The trap retains the runoff long enough to allow most of the silt to settle out.

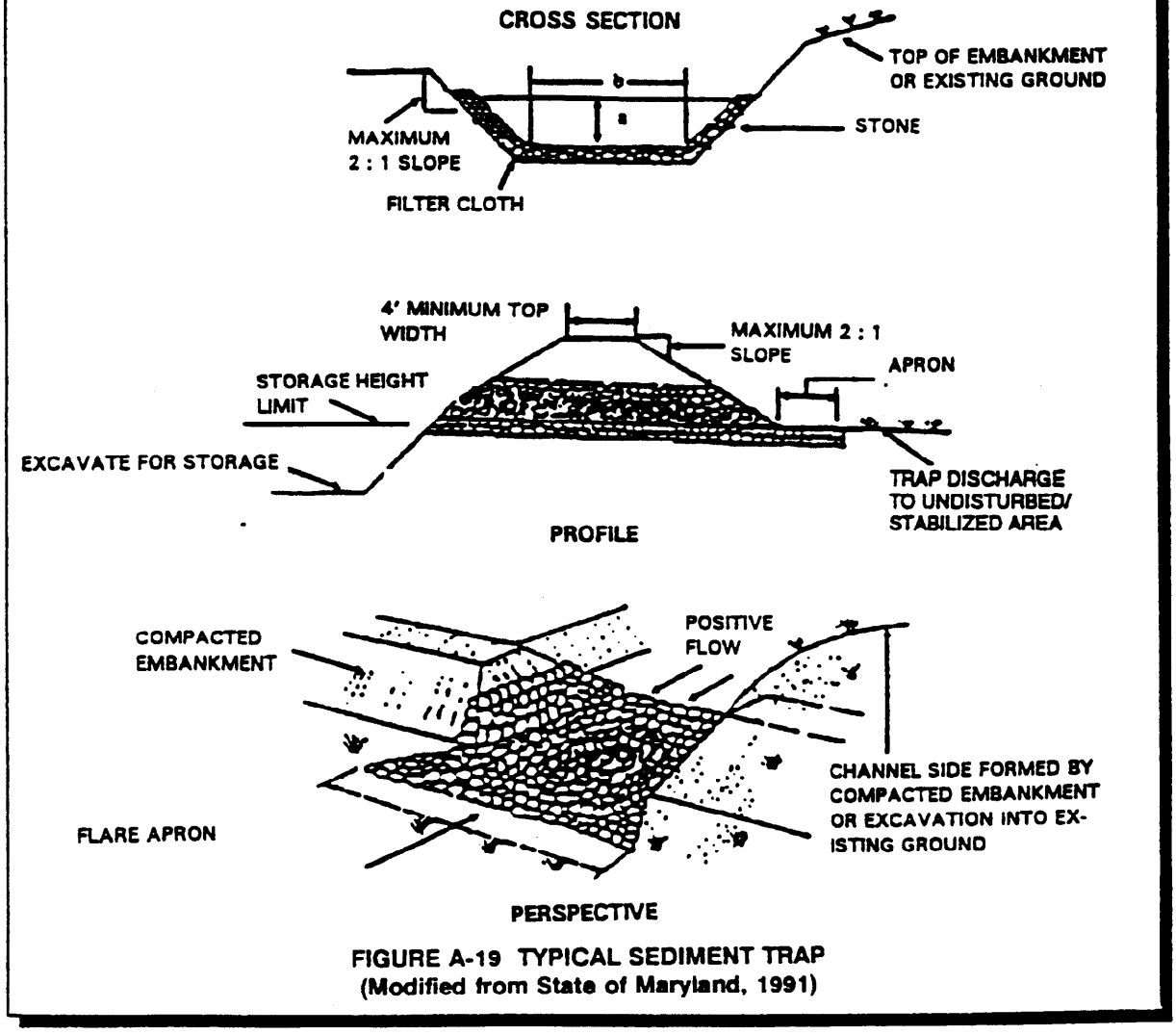

FIGURE A-19 TYPICAL SEDIMENT TRAP
(Modified from State of Maryland, 1991)

Source: EPA (1992)

When and Where to Use It

A temporary sediment trap may be used in conjunction with other temporary measures, such as gravel construction entrances, vehicle wash areas, slope drains, diversion dikes and swales, or diversion channels.

What to Consider

Sediment traps are suitable for small drainage areas, usually no more than 10 acres. The trap should be large enough to allow the sediments to settle and should have a capacity to store the collected sediment until it is removed. The volume of storage required depends upon the amount and intensity of expected rainfall and on estimated quantities of sediment in the storm water runoff. Check your Permit to see if it specifies a minimum storage volume for sediment traps.

The effective life of a sediment trap depends upon adequate maintenance. The trap should be readily accessible for periodic maintenance and sediment removal. Traps should be inspected after each rainfall and cleaned when no more than half the design volume has been filled with collected sediment. The trap should remain in operation and be properly maintained until the site area is permanently stabilized by vegetation and/or when permanent structures are in place.

Advantages of a Temporary Sediment Trap
• Protects downstream areas from clogging or damage due to sediment deposits
• Is inexpensive and simple to install
• Can simplify the design process by trapping sediment at specific spots onsite
Disadvantages of a Temporary Sediment Trap
• Is suitable only for a limited area
• Is effective only if properly maintained
• Will not remove very fine silts and clays

Source: EPA (1992)

TEMPORARY SEDIMENT TRAP

September 1992

Design Criteria

- Temporary sediment traps are appropriate in the following locations:
  - At the outlet of the perimeter controls installed during the first stage of construction.
  - At the outlet of any structure which concentrates sediment-laden runoff, e.g. at the discharge point of diversions, channels, slope drains, or other runoff conveyances.
  - Above a storm water inlet that is in line to receive sediment-laden runoff.
- Temporary sediment traps may be constructed by excavation alone or by excavation in combination with an embankment.
- Temporary sediment traps are often used in conjunction with a diversion dike or swale.
- The drainage area for the sediment trap should not exceed 5 disturbed acres.
- The trap must be accessible for ease of regular maintenance which is critical to its functioning properly.
- Sediment traps are temporary measures and should not be planned to remain in place longer than between 18 and 24 months.
- The capacity of the sedimentation pool should provide storage volume for 3,600 cubic feet/acre drainage area.
- The outlet should be designed to provide a 2 foot settling depth and an additional sediment storage area 1½ feet deep at the bottom of the trap.
- The embankment may not exceed 5 feet in height.
- The recommended minimum width at the top of the embankment is between 2 feet and 5 feet.
- The minimum recommended length of the weir is between 3 feet and 4 feet, and the maximum is 12 feet in length.
- Table 5 illustrates the typical relationship between the embankment height, the height of the outlet (H_o), and the width (W) at the top of the embankment.

TABLE A-4 EMBANKMENT HEIGHT vs. OUTLET HEIGHT AND WIDTH

H	H_o	W
1.5	0.5	2.0
2.0	1.0	2.0
2.5	1.5	2.5
3.0	2.0	2.5
3.5	2.5	3.0
4.0	3.0	3.0
4.5	3.5	4.0
5.0	4.0	4.5

Materials

- Filter fabric (see fabric requirement for silt fence)
- Coarse aggregate or riprap 2 inches to 14 inches in diameter
- Washed gravel ¾ to 1½ inches in diameter
- Seed and mulch for stabilization

TEMPORARY SEDIMENT TRAP

Construction Specifications

- Clear the area of all trees, brush, stumps or other obstructions.
- Construct the embankment in 8 inch lifts compacting each lift with the appropriate earth moving equipment. Fill material must be free of woody vegetation, roots, or large stones.
- Keep cut and fill slopes between 3:1 and 2:1 or flatter.
- Line the outlet area with filter fabric prior to placing stone or gravel.
- Construct the gravel outlet using heavy stones between 6 inches and 14 inches in diameter and face the upstream side with a 12 inch layer of ¾ inch to 1½ inch washed gravel on the upstream side.
- Seed and mulch the embankment as soon as possible to ensure stabilization.

Maintenance

- Inspect regularly and after every storm. Make any repairs necessary to ensure the measure is in good working order.
- Frequent removal of sediment is critical to the functioning of this measure. At a minimum sediment should be removed and the trap restored to its original volume when sediment reaches ½ of the original volume.
- Sediment removed from the trap must be properly disposed.
- Check the embankment regularly to make sure it is structurally sound.

Cost

- Costs for a sediment trap vary widely based upon their size and the amount of excavation and stone required, they usually can be installed for $500 to $7,000.

Sources

- Commonwealth of Virginia - County of Fairfax, 1987. 1987 Check List For Erosion And Sediment Control - Fairfax County, Virginia.
- State of North Carolina, 1988. Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Manual. North Carolina Sedimentation Control Commission, Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.
- Maryland Department of the Environment, 1991. 1991 Maryland Standards And Specifications For Soil Erosion And Sediment Control - Draft.
- Storm Water Management Manual for the Puget Sound Basin. State of Washington, Department of Ecology, 1991.
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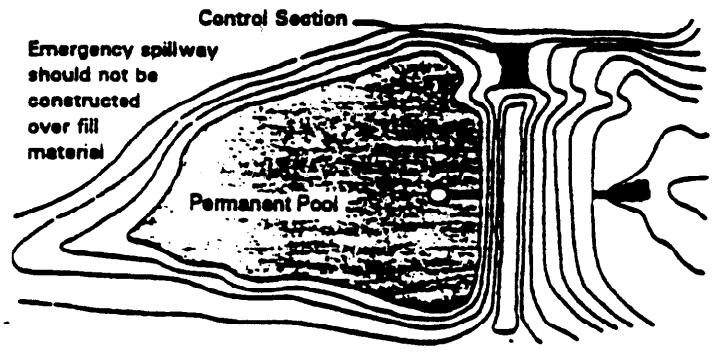
Temporary Sediment Basin

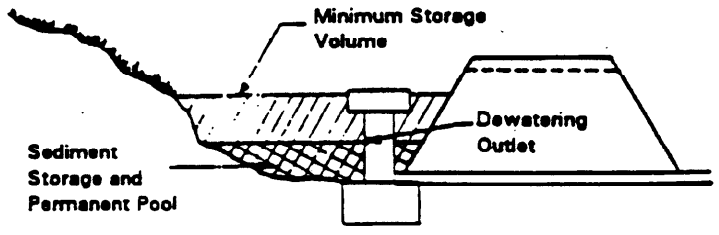
What Is It

A temporary sediment basin is a settling pond with a controlled storm water release structure used to collect and store sediment produced by construction activities. A sediment basin can be constructed by excavation and/or by placing an earthen embankment across a low area or drainage swale. Sediment basins can be designed to maintain a permanent pool or to drain completely dry. The basin detains sediment-laden runoff from larger drainage areas long enough to allow most of the sediment to settle out.

The pond has a riser and pipe outlet with a gravel outlet or spillway to slow the release of runoff and provide some sediment filtration. By removing sediment, the basin helps prevent clogging of offsite conveyance systems and sediment-loading of receiving waterways. In this way, the basin helps prevent destruction of waterway habitats.



Plan View



Cross Section

FIGURE A-20 TEMPORARY SEDIMENT BASIN
(Modified from Commonwealth of Virginia, 1980)

Source: EPA (1992)

When and Where to Use It

A temporary sediment basin should be installed before clearing and grading is undertaken. It should not be built on an embankment in an active stream. The creation of a dam in such a site may result in the destruction of aquatic habitats. Dam failure can also result in flooding. A temporary sediment basin should be located only if there is sufficient space and appropriate topography. The basin should be made large enough to handle the maximum expected amount of site drainage. Fencing around the basin may be necessary for safety or vandalism reasons.

A temporary sediment basin used in combination with other control measures, such as seeding or mulching, is especially effective for removing sediments.

What to Consider

Temporary sediment basins are usually designed for disturbed areas larger than 5 acres. The pond should be large enough to hold runoff long enough for sediment to settle. Sufficient space should be allowed for collected sediments. Check the requirements of your permit to see if there is a minimum storage requirement for sediment basins. The useful life of a temporary sediment basin is dependent upon adequate maintenance.

Sediment trapping efficiency is improved by providing the maximum surface area possible. Because finer silts may not settle out completely, additional erosion control measures should be used to minimize release of fine silt. Runoff should enter the basin as far from the outlet as possible to provide maximum retention time.

Sediment basins should be readily accessible for maintenance and sediment removal. They should be inspected after each rainfall and be cleaned out when about half the volume has been filled with sediment. The sediment basin should remain in operation and be properly maintained until the site area is permanently stabilized by vegetation and/or when permanent structures are in place. The embankment forming the sedimentation pool should be well compacted and stabilized with vegetation. If the pond is located near a residential area, it is recommended for safety reasons that a sign be posted and that the area be secured by a fence. A well built temporary sediment basin that is large enough to handle the post construction runoff volume may later be converted to use as a permanent storm water management structure.

The sediment basins outlet pipe and spill way should be designed by an engineer based upon an analysis of the expected runoff flow rates from the site. Consult your state/local requirements to determine the frequency of the storm for which the outlet must be designed.

Source: EPA (1992)

EPA BASELINE GENERAL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS
Sediment Basin Requirements
Part IV.D.2.a.(2).(a).
For common drainage locations that serve an area with 10 or more disturbed acres at one time, a temporary (or permanent) sediment basin providing 3,600 cubic feet of storage per acre drained, or equivalent control measures, shall be provided where attainable until final stabilization of the site. The 3,600 cubic feet of storage area per acre drained does not apply to flows from offsite areas and flows from onsite areas that are either undisturbed or have undergone final stabilization where such flows are diverted around the sediment basin. For drainage locations which serve 10 or more disturbed acres at one time and where a temporary sediment basin providing 3,600 cubic feet of storage per acre drained, or equivalent controls is not attainable, sediment traps, silt fences, or equivalent sediment controls are required for all sideslope and downslope boundaries of the construction area.

Advantages of a Temporary Sediment Basin
• Protects downstream areas from clogging or damage due to sediment deposits generated during construction activities
• Can trap smaller sediment particles than sediment traps can because of the longer detention time
• Can be converted to a permanent storm water detention structure, once construction is complete
Disadvantages of a Temporary Sediment Basin
• Is generally suitable for small areas
• Requires regular maintenance and cleaning
• Will not remove very fine silts and clays unless used in conjunction with other measures
• Is a more expensive way to remove sediment than several other methods
• Requires careful adherence to safety practices since ponds are attractive to children

Source: EPA (1992)

Outlet Protection

What Is It

Outlet protection reduces the speed of concentrated storm water flows and therefore it reduces erosion or scouring at storm water outlets and paved channel sections. In addition, outlet protection lowers the potential for downstream erosion. This type of protection can be achieved through a variety of techniques, including stone or riprap, concrete aprons, paved sections and settling basins installed below the storm drain outlet.

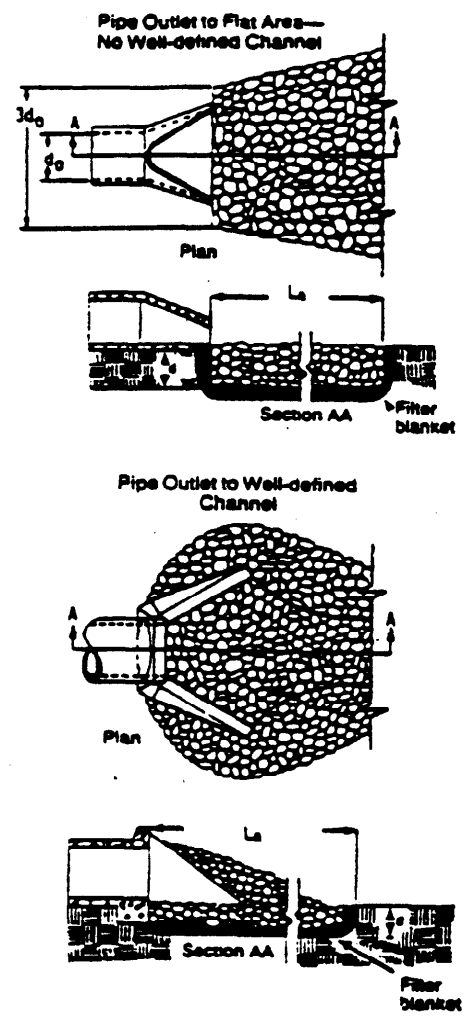


FIGURE A-21 TYPICAL DETAILS FOR ROCK OUTLET PROTECTION
(Modified from State of North Carolina, 1988)

Source: EPA (1992)

When and Where to Use It

Outlet protection should be installed at all pipe, interceptor dike, swale, or channel section outlets where the velocity of flow may cause erosion at the pipe outlet and in the receiving channel. Outlet protection should also be used at outlets where the velocity of flow at the design capacity may result in plunge pools (small permanent pools located at the inlet to or the outfall from BMPs). Outlet protection should be installed early during construction activities, but may be added at any time, as necessary.

What to Consider

The exit velocity of the runoff as it leaves the outlet protection structure should be reduced to levels that minimize erosion. Outlet protection should be inspected on a regular schedule to look for erosion and scouring. Repairs should be made promptly.

Advantages of Outlet Protection
• Provides, with riprap-line apron (the most common outlet protection), a relatively low cost method that can be installed easily on most sites
• Removes sediment in addition to reducing flow speed
• Can be used at most outlets where the flow speed is high
• Is an inexpensive but effective measure
• Requires less maintenance than many other measures
Disadvantages of Outlet Protection
• May be unsightly
• May cause problems in removing sediment (without removing and replacing the outlet protection structure itself)
• May require frequent maintenance for rock outlets with high velocity flows

Source: EPA (1992)

Check Dams

What Are They

A check dam is a small, temporary or permanent dam constructed across a drainage ditch, swale, or channel to lower the speed of concentrated flows. Reduced runoff speed reduces erosion and gullying in the channel and allows sediments to settle out.

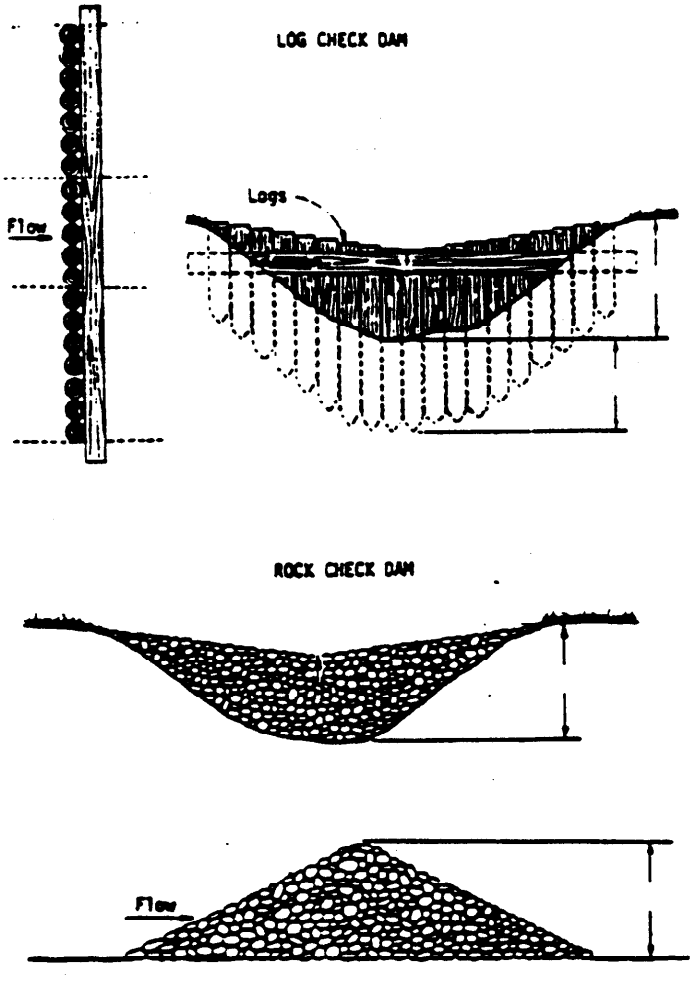


FIGURE A-22 TYPICAL CHECK DAMS
(Modified from Commonwealth of Virginia, 1980)

When and Where to Use Them

A check dam should be installed in steeply sloped swales, or in swales where adequate vegetation cannot be established. A check dam may be built from logs, stone, or pea gravel-filled sandbags.

Source: EPA (1992)

What to Consider

Check dams should be used only in small open channels which will not be overtopped by flow once the dams are constructed. The dams should not be placed in streams (unless approved by appropriate State authorities). The center section of the check dam should be lower than the edges. Dams should be spaced so that the toe of the upstream dam is at the same elevation as the top of the downstream dam.

After each significant rainfall, check dams should be inspected for sediment and debris accumulation. Sediment should be removed when it reaches one half the original dam height. Check for erosion at edges and repair promptly as required. After construction is complete, all stone and riprap should be removed if vegetative erosion controls will be used as a permanent erosion control measure. It will be important to know the expected erosion rates and runoff flow rate for the swale in which this measure is to be installed. Contact the State/local storm water program agency or a licensed engineer for assistance in designing this measure.

Advantages of Check Dams
• Are inexpensive and easy to install
• May be used permanently if designed properly
• Allow a high proportion of sediment in the runoff to settle out
• Reduce velocity and may provide aeration of the water
• May be used where it is not possible to divert the flow or otherwise stabilize the channel
Disadvantages of Check Dams
• May kill grass linings in channels if the water level remains high after it rains or if there is significant sedimentation
• Reduce the hydraulic capacity of the channel
• May create turbulence which erodes the channel banks

Source: EPA (1992)